

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS : PGOV, PINS, PINT, GW, FR

SUBJECT : PRESS INTERVIEW : WILLY BRANDT

1. DURING A RECENT VACATION ON THE COTE D AZUR, FORMER
WEST-GERMAN CHANCELLOR, WILLY BRANDT SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH
THE LOCAL PRESS. ON JANUARY 7, AT LA CROIX-VALMER, THE
PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENT,
RECEIVED A REPORTER OF NICE-MATIN AND COMMENTED ON THE
FOLLOWING SUBJECTS .

2. FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY

DURING THIS VISIT TO FRANCE, MR BRANDT HAS HAD NO CONTACT
WITH FRANCOIS MITTERRAND. HE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT
MITTERRAND, WHOM HE LAST SAW AT THE SPANISH SOCIALIST
PARTY CONGRESS IN MADRID, HAS DONE MUCH TO BUILD THE
STRENGTH OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN FRANCE. BRANDT DOES
NOT FEEL THAT THE FRENCH ECONOMIC SITUATION IS AS BAD AS
THE FRENCH PUBLIC THINKS. THE FRENCH ECONOMY, HE SAID,
CANNOT IN ANY WAY BE COMPARED WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION
IN ENGLAND AND ITALY.

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3. WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE PLAN BARRE , BRANDT
REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON FRENCH INTERNAL POLICY. IN
REFUSING COMMENT, HOWEVER, HE POSED A QUESTION OF HIS OWN :
QUOTE WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MR ROCARD ? UNQUOTE. IT WAS
OBVIOUS THAT THE FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE P.S.U.
(WHOM SOME FEEL COULD BECOME THE SUCCESSOR OF FRANCOIS
MITTERRAND) IS OF INTEREST TO BRANDT.

4. PEACE IN EUROPE

ACCORDING TO BRANDT, WAR IN EUROPE COULD NEVER AGAIN BE POSSIBLE AMONG COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES SINCE THEY NOW HAVE FAR TOO MANY JOINT INTERESTS. WITH REGARD TO THE EFFECT OF WORLD WAR II ON GERMAN YOUTH TODAY, BRANDT FEELS SURE THAT THE NAZI PERIOD HAS BEEN COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN BY THE PRESENT GENERATION. GERMAN YOUTH ARE TODAY ACCUSTOMED TO LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY : THEY WILL NEVER RETURN TO NAZISM. EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD NEW RIGHTIST PARTIES ARE SPRINGING UP BUT THIS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION THAT THEY ARE FOLLOWED BY THE ENTIRE POPULATION. SUCH PARTIES USUALLY REPRESENT A GROUPING OF A MINUSCULE PORTION OF A COUNTRY WHICH IS WITHOUT IMPORTANCE.

5. WHEN QUESTIONED REGARDING HIS FUTURE PLANS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS ONE-DAY BECOMING CHANCELLOR AGAIN, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT HELMUT SCHMIDT IS EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY AND ALSO IN THE BUNDESTAG, BRANDT REPLIED QUOTE HELMUT SCHMIDT S FUNCTIONS ARE SOLELY NATIONAL WHEREAS MINE ARE NOW INTERNATIONAL. BUT WE WORK FOR THE SAME CAUSE. UNQUOTE.

MURPHY

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